

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-23, 75-97, 155-172, 188, 240-241 and 243 are now pending in the application. While Applicant disagrees with the current rejections, Applicant has amended the claims to expedite prosecution. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the claims as originally filed in one or more continuing applications. Claims 5, 24-74, 98-154, 173-187 and 242 are cancelled. Claims 1-4, 6-23, 75-97, 155-172, 188, 240-241 and 243 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the written description, claims, and drawings as originally filed. Independent claims 1 and 75 have simply been amended to incorporate limitations of respective dependent claims. Therefore, no new matter has been added. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5, 9-15, 19-23, 75-79, 83-87 and 93-97 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,084,790 ("Wong") in combination with U.S. Pat. No. 5,654,881 ("Albrecht") and U.S. Pat. No. 6,282,103 ("Naito"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While Applicant disagrees with the rejection, Applicant has nevertheless amended the claims to recite limitations of allowable claims. Therefore, this rejection is rendered moot.

Namely, Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite limitations of claim 187; claims 6, 7, 16, 188 and 240 to recite limitations of claim 1; claim 75 to recite limitations of claim 242; and claims 81, 88 and 241 to recite limitations of claim 75. Claims 6-7, 16, 187-188 and 240 are allowable. Therefore, claims 1, 6-7, 16, 75, 81, 88, 188 and 240-241 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-4, 8-15, 17-23, 76-80, 82-87, 89-97 and 243 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1, 6-7, 16, 75, 81, 88, 188 and 240-241 and are therefore also in a condition for allowance.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 6-8, 16-18, 81, 82, 88-92, 187, 188 and 240-243 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite limitations of claim 187; claims 6, 7, 16, 188 and 240 to recite limitations of claim 1; claim 75 to recite limitations of claim 242; and claims 81, 88 and 241 to recite limitations of claim 75.

Therefore, claims 1, 6-7, 16, 75, 81, 88, 188 and 240-241 are in condition for allowance. Claims 2-4, 8-15, 17-23, 76-80, 82-87, 89-97 and 243 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1, 6-7, 16, 75, 81, 88, 188 and 240-241 and are therefore in a condition for allowance. With regard to claims 8, 17-18, 82, 89-92 and 243, Applicant thanks the Examiner for favorable review of these claims. However, Applicant has elected not to rewrite these claims in independent form at the present time because these claims depend from independent claims 1, 7, 16, 75 and 81, which are already in condition for allowance. Therefore, claims 8, 17-18, 82, 89-92 and 243 are also in condition for allowance.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 155-172.


CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly addressed. For all of the reasons set forth above, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. By addressing particular positions taken by the Examiner in the above remarks, Applicant does not acquiesce to other positions that have not been explicitly addressed. In addition, Applicant's arguments for the patentability of a claim should not be understood as implying that no other reasons for the patentability of that claim exist.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will allow any outstanding issues to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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